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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,751	10/06/2000	Dan Matheson	4079.05SU1	2132

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EXAMINER

BAHTA, KIDEST

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,751

Applicant(s)

MATHESON, DAN

Examiner

Kidest Bahta

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/8/00 - 3/14/03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 10-14, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sebastian et al. (U. S. Patent 5,822,206).

Regarding claims 1-6, 10-14, 18 and 20, Sebastian discloses an object model for capturing information related to product innovation-related data, comprising: a product idea interface for capturing an idea for a product in a product idea object (Fig. 6), a design alternative interface for capturing a plurality of design alternatives for the product in a plurality of respective design alternative object (column 5, lines 22-28); a product requirement interface for capturing a requirement for the product idea in a product requirement object (column 6, lines 45-49; step 42); a product function fulfillment interface which captures how well the product function fulfills the product requirement (column 8, lines 54-65); a design representation interface for capturing a representation of the design alternative in a design representation object (column 15, lines 4-14); a decision interface for capturing a decision in a product requirement object, the decision relating to one of the product idea or the design alternative (column 5, lines 34-49); storing each of the product idea object, the design alternative object, the product requirement object, and the design representation object in a separate

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relational database, wherein associations between each of the product idea object, the design alternative object, the product requirement object, and the design representation object are captures using foreign Keys (column 13, lines 57-67 and table 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7-9, 15-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sebastian et al. (U. S. Patent 5,822,206) in view of Malaugh et al. (U.S. Patent 6,445,974).

Regarding claims 7-9, 15-17 and 19, Sebastian discloses the limitations of claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 13 and 18 as stated above in par. 2. However, Sebastian fails to disclose the limitations of claims 7-9, 15-17, and 19.

Malaugh discloses each to the product idea object, design alternative object, the product requirement object and design representation object are store in a tool-neutral persistent form (column 2, lines 58-67, column 4, lines 12-22 and column 3, lines 44-49).

It would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine the teachings of Sebastian with the

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teachings of Malaugh because it would provide with an improved system wherein even when a plurality of different electric CAD system are used, part selection data standardizes using a common platform is obtained and even when the individual department require information in different formats due to their different roles, information suitable for each department can be efficiently acquired.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning communication or earlier communication from examiner should be directed to Kidest Bahta, whose telephone number is (703) 308-6103. Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. If attempts to reach examiner by phone fail, examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached (703) 308-0538. Additionally, fax phones for Art Unit 2125 is (703) 746-7239. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to status of this application should be directed to group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.

Kidest Bahta

April 11, 2003


ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER